

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently amended) A method of creating a transformed plant, which plant in its untransformed state expresses a [baseline] first level of PLD- α enzyme, said method comprising the steps of:

recombinantly altering the genome of said plant in an effort to change said [baseline] first level of expression of said PLD enzyme; and
testing stomatal closure characteristics of said plant after said genome alteration to determine if said plant has altered stomatal closure characteristics [and the relationship between the stomatal closure characteristics and the altered level of PLD enzyme expression, as compared with said baseline level].

Claim 2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an antisense gene of PLD- α into said genome.

Claim 3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an insert into the plant genome, said insert comprising a promoter and at least one PLD- α coding sequence [sequences].

Claim 4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, said antisense gene having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, said promoter comprising the 35S promoter from the cauliflower mosaic virus.

Claim 7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, said PLD- α coding sequences having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 2.

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 1, said testing including determining said plant's transpiration rate.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 1, said testing including measuring said plant's diffusion resistance.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of exposing said plant to abscisic acid.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 1, said testing including subjecting said plants to drought conditions.

Claim 13. (original) The method of claim 1, said testing including observing said plant's turgidity.

Claim 14. (Currently amended) A method of growing a transformed plant in a location having unsuitable water and growth conditions for said plant's growth prior to transformation, said method comprising the steps of:

recombinantly altering the genome of said plant in an effort to change the level of PLD- α

expressed by said plant;

testing water consumption levels of said plant in order to determine if said genome alteration

will permit plant growth in said location; and

planting the progeny of said plant in said location.

Claim 15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an antisense gene of PLD- α into said genome.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an insert into the plant genome, said insert comprising a promoter and at least one PLD- α coding sequence [sequences].

Claim 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, said antisense gene having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 18. (Canceled)

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, said promoter comprising the 35S promoter from the cauliflower mosaic virus.

Claim 20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, said PLD- α coding sequences having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 2.

Claim 21. (Canceled)

Claim 22. (original) The method of claim 14, said testing including determining said plant's transpiration rate.

Claim 23. (original) The method of claim 14, said testing including measuring said plant's diffusion resistance.

Claim 24. (original) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of exposing said plant to abscisic acid.

Claim 25. (original) The method of claim 14, said testing including subjecting said plants to drought conditions.

Claim 26. (original) The method of claim 14, said testing including observing said plant's turgidity.

Claim 27. (Currently amended) A method of growing a transformed plant having modified stomatal closure responses to water availability, which plant in its untransformed state exhibits a [baseline] first stomatal closure response, said method comprising the steps of:

recombinantly altering the genome of said plant in an effort to change said [baseline] first level of stomatal closure response, said altering resulting in a modified level of PLD- α expression; and

testing said stomatal closure responses of said transformed plant to determine if said plant has modified stomatal closure responses.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an antisense gene of PLD- α into said genome.

Claim 29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 27, [further comprising the] said recombinantly altering step including the step of introducing an insert into the plant genome, said insert comprising a promoter and at least one PLD- α coding sequence [sequences].

Claim 30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 28, said antisense gene having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 31. (Canceled)

Claim 32. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, said promoter comprising the 35S promoter from the cauliflower mosaic virus.

Claim 33. (Currently amended) The method of claim 29, said PLD- α coding sequences having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 2.

Claim 34. (Canceled)

Claim 35. (original) The method of claim 27, said testing including determining said plant's transpiration rate.

Claim 36. (original) The method of claim 27, said testing including measuring said plant's diffusion resistance.

Claim 37. (original) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of exposing said plant to abscisic acid.

Claim 38. (original) The method of claim 27, said testing including subjecting said plants to drought conditions.

Claim 39. (original) The method of claim 27, said testing including observing said plant's turgidity.

Claim 40. (Currently amended) A method of altering water consumption by a plant comprising the step of manipulating the level of PLD- α enzyme expression and thereby altering water consumption.

Claim 41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 40, [further comprising] said manipulating step including the step of introducing an antisense gene of PLD- α into said genome.

Claim 42. (original) The method of claim 40, [further comprising] said manipulating step including the step of introducing an insert into the plant genome, said insert comprising a promoter and at least one PLD- α coding sequence [sequences].

Claim 43. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, said antisense gene having a sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 1.

Claim 44. (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, said promoter comprising the 35S promoter from the cauliflower mosaic virus.

Claim 46. (Currently amended) The method of claim 42, said PLD- α coding sequences having the sequence of [at least about 60% sequence similarity with] SEQ ID No. 2.

Claim 47. (Canceled)

Claim 48. (original) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of measuring said plant's water consumption.

Claim 49. (original) The method of claim 48, said measuring including determining said plant's transpiration rate.

Claim 50. (original) The method of claim 48, said measuring including measuring said plant's diffusion resistance.

Claim 51. (original) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of exposing said plant to abscisic acid.

Claim 52. (original) The method of claim 48, said measuring including subjecting said plants to drought conditions.

Claim 53. (original) The method of claim 48, said measuring including observing said plant's turgidity.

Claims 54-59. (Canceled)